

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198601444

Piper PA 32-300

09 December 1986

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198601444
Location: Melbourne VIC
Date: 09 December 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 2105

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	5
Total	0	0	0	6

Aircraft Details: Piper PA 32-300
Registration: VH-CLF
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Moorabbin VIC
Departure Time: 2105
Destination: Melbourne VIC

Approved for Release: May 12th 1987

Circumstances:

Prior to DEPARTURE, the pilot had been made aware of a Notam advising pilots to disregard temporary displaced threshold markings for runway 27 at the destination. During the subsequent approach the pilot noticed red and white lighting, and associated this with the displaced threshold. It was his intention to land beyond these lights, which were in fact the runway approach lights. Very late in the approach the pilot realised he was too low, but before power could be applied the aircraft struck the lights, 180 metres short of the runway. The main gear legs were torn off and the nose gear collapsed before the aircraft slid to a halt on the side of the runway. The pilot had been confused by the Notam relating to the displaced threshold, but had not sought clarification prior to DEPARTURE. He had limited night flying experience and was unfamiliar with the presentation of High Intensity Approach Lighting. It was evident that during the approach he had focussed his attention on these lights, to the exclusion of the runway lighting.